

What is Claimed is:

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1 1. A method comprising:
2 in a wireless network, receiving a user request for
3 a packet switched data service;
4 determining a provider for the service according to
5 stored policies; and
6 determining a billing arrangement for the service
7 according to the stored policies.

1 2. The method of claim 1 in which the stored polices
2 include how the user is to be billed and a basis for the
3 billing.

1 3. The method of claim 2 in which the stored polices
2 include policy decisions that are entrusted to the provider.

1 4. The method of claim 1 in which the stored polices
2 include pre-arrangements between an operator of the network
3 and the provider.

1 5. The method of claim 1 in which the stored policies
2 include matching a provider to a user's time of connection.

1 6. The method of claim 1 in which the stored policies
2 include matching a provider to a user's location.

1 7. The method of claim 1 in which the stored policies
2 include matching a provider to a time of day.

1 8. The method of claim 1 in which the stored policies
2 include matching a provider to a user class.

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1 9. The method of claim 1 in which the stored policies
2 include matching a provider to a service class.

1 10. The method of claim 1 in which the stored policies
2 include matching a provider to network conditions.

1 11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 determining whether the user is authorized to use
3 the service.

1 12. The method of claim 11 in which determining
2 comprises:

3 checking a user account for payment history.

1 13. The method of claim 11 further comprising:
2 billing the user upon completion of a user session;
3 and
4 reconciling billing between a network operator and
5 the provider.

1 14. The method of claim 13 in which the user session
2 includes multiple transaction sessions.

1 15. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network
2 is a second generation wireless network.

1 16. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network
2 is a Global System for Mobile communication (GSM) network.

1 17. The method of claim 16 in which the GSM network is
2 General Packet Radio System (GPRS) enabled.

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1 18. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network
2 is a Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) network.

1 19. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network
2 is a Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) network.

1 20. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network
2 is a Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS)
3 network.

1 21. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network
2 is a TETRA network.

1 22. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network
2 is a Tetrapol network.

1 23. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network
2 is a DECT network.

1 24. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network
2 is an AMPS network.

1 25. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network
2 is a wireless local area network (WLAN).

1 26. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network
2 is a third generation wireless network.

1 27. A method of managing a General Packet Radio System
2 (GPRS) enabled Global System for Mobile communication (GSM)
3 network comprising:

4 receiving a user request for a packet switched data
5 service;

6 determining a provider for the service according to
7 stored policies; and

8 determining a billing arrangement for the service
9 according to the stored policies.

1 28. The method of claim 27 in which the stored polices
2 include how the user is to be billed and a basis for the
3 billing.

1 29. The method of claim 28 in which the stored polices
2 include policy decisions that are entrusted to the provider.

1 30. The method of claim 27 in which the stored polices
2 include pre-arrangements between an operator of the network
3 and the provider.

1 31. The method of claim 27 in which the stored policies
2 include matching a provider to a user's time of connection.

1 32. The method of claim 27 in which the stored policies
2 include matching a provider to a user's location.

1 33. The method of claim 27 in which the stored policies
2 include matching a provider to a time of day.

1 34. The method of claim 27 in which the stored policies
2 include matching a provider to a user class.

1 35. The method of claim 27 in which the stored policies
2 include matching a provider to a service class.

1 36. The method of claim 27 in which the stored policies
2 include matching a provider to network conditions.

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1 37. The method of claim 27 further comprising:
2 determining whether the user is authorized to use
3 the service.

1 38. The method of claim 37 in which determining
2 comprises:

3 checking a user account for payment history.

1 39. The method of claim 37 further comprising:
2 billing the user upon completion of a user session;

3 and

4 reconciling billing between a network operator and
5 the provider.

1 40. The method of claim 39 in which the user session
2 includes multiple transaction sessions.

1 41. A method comprising:

2 in a General Packet Radio System (GPRS) enabled Global
3 System for Mobile Communication (GSM) network, collecting call
4 data

5 records (CDRs) from a Serving GPRS support node in the
6 network;

7 sending the CDRs to a charging gateway in the network;

8 processing the CDRs for packet switched data into a

9 single composite CDR stream in the charging gateway; and

10 processing the single composite CDR stream in a billing
11 system.

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1 42. The method of claim 41 in which collecting further
2 comprises:

3 collecting CDRs from a GPRS support node.

1 43. The method of claim 41 in which processing the CDRs
2 further comprises:

3 augmenting the CDRs for packet switched data in a billing
4 mediation node.

1 44. The method of claim 41 in which the single composite
2 CDR stream represents a user session.

1 45. The method of claim 44 in which the user session
2 includes a plurality of individual purchase sessions.

1 46. The method of claim 41 in which processing the
2 single composite CDR stream comprises:

3 checking for records duplication;

4 correlating information; and

5 validating.

1 47. A method of providing a sponsored packet switch data
2 service comprising:

3 in a GPRS enabled GSM network, receiving a request for a
4 packet switched data service;

5 selecting a service provider for the packet switched data
6 service;

7 connecting a session to the selected service provider;

8 metering the session;

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9 generating billing information from the metering; and
 10 allocating the billing information to appropriate
 11 parties.

1 48. The method of claim 47 in which the request is from
 2 a user.

1 49. The method of claim 48 in which selecting further
 2 comprises:

3 authenticating access for the user to the service
 4 provider.

1 50. The method of claim 49 in which selecting further
 2 comprises:

3 determining whether the request is for the selected
 4 service provider.

1 51. The method of claim 50 in which selecting further
 2 comprises:

3 determining authorization for the user to the selected
 4 service.

1 52. The method of claim 48 metering comprises:
 2 monitoring the session between the user and the selected
 3 service provider.

1 53. The method of claim 47 in which an appropriate party
 2 is a network provider.

1 54. The method of claim 47 in which an appropriate party
 2 is the user.

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1 55. The method of claim 47 in which an appropriate party
2 is the selected service provider.

1 56. The method of claim 47 in which the appropriate
2 parties are the user, a network provider and the selected
3 service provider.

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